**EXCERPTS FROM THE SEJONG SILLOK: CH’OE MALLI’S OPPOSITION TO KOREAN ALPHABET**

As you read the following document focus on the questions which form part of the APPARTS method of interpreting historical documents. Bear in mind that some parts of it are seemingly redundant, but this redundancy serves as a means to assure that you have clarity in terms of what the document’s point and purpose is all about.

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| **APPARTS** | **EXCERPTS FROM THE SEJONG SILLOK: CH’OE MALLI’S OPPOSITION TO KOREAN ALPHABET** |
| A -Who created the source? What do you know about the author? What is the author’s point of view? | The author is Choe Malli, the first counselor in the Hall of Worthies during King Sejong’s reign. He is opposed to the use of the new alphabet, arguing that it would get Joseon down to the level of barbarians. |
| P - Where and when was the source produced? How might this affect the meaning of the source? | The memorial was offered in 1444 in King Sejong’s court, and it was recorded by the historian who wrote the Sejong Silok. It is useful to have this information, since the Korean language and culture in 1444 is greatly different from today and it helps to take the differences in account. |
| P -Beyond information about the author and the context of its creation, what do you know that would help you further understand the primary source? | It would help to understand the cultural toadyism of that period, Joseon respecting China as the senior country. Moreover, it would help to understand the government system of Joseon, how much power King Sejong had and how much influence the officials like Choe Malli had on government policy. |
| A -For whom was the source created and how might this affect the reliability of the source? | Choe Malli offered the memorial to King Sejong to reconsider using Korean alphabet, and the historian in the court recorded it. Considering that it is addressed to the king, trying to affect the government policy, one may question the validity of Choe Malli’s bias against the new alphabet and so called barbarians. Regarding the historian who recorded it, since he wrote it for the Joseon dynasty and the later generations, one may question his reliability since he would be somewhat favorable to the king. |
| R -Why was this source produced at the time it was produced? | Choe Malli offered the memorial to oppose the use of the new alphabet that King Sejong created. The court historian recorded it to pass down the events to the later generations. |
| T -What point is the source trying to convey? | Choe Malli is trying to say that using Korean alphabet should be reconsidered, since doing so would be disrespecting China and getting Joseon down to the level of barbarians. |
| S -Why is this source important? What inferences can you draw from this document? Ask yourself, “So what?” in relation to the question asked. | It is important since it makes the reader understand the nature of opposition that King Sejong faced regarding Korean alphabet. One can infer that the intellectual elites and officials in Joseon dynasty greatly valued the Confucian teachings that are written in Chinese characters and respected China as the senior country. One can also infer that King Sejong had conflicts with his officials. |